

# Old Broad Bay Bund und Blatt

A Newsletter about the German Colony  
Established at Broad Bay, Maine 1742 - 1753

Volume 5

July - August - September

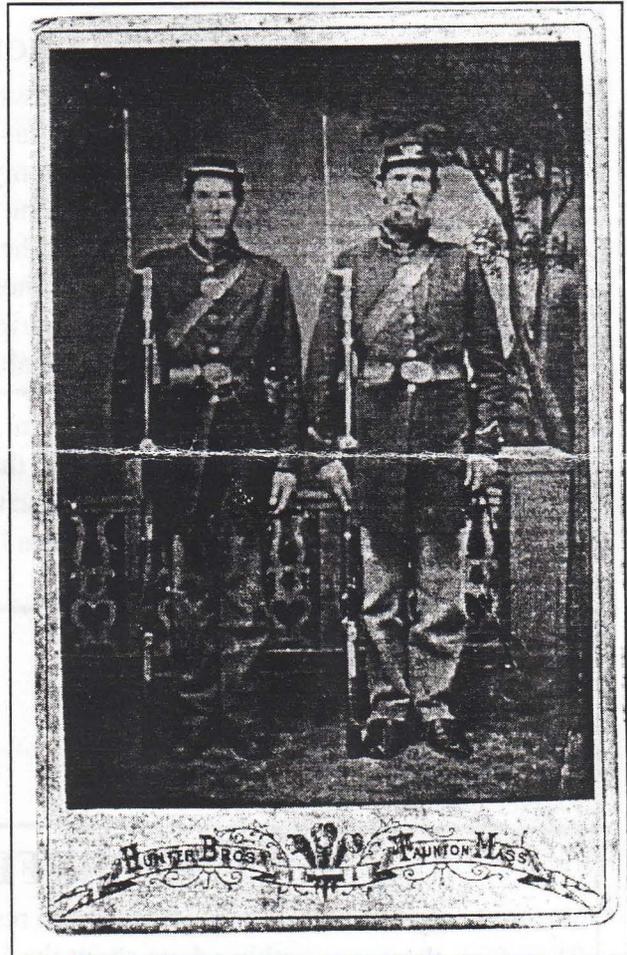
Number 3

## Levensaler Men in the Civil War

Thomas Levensaler and his younger brother Warren, sons of Thomas Levensaler and Dorothy Mink, standing proudly in their new uniforms and bayoneted rifles, are good examples of the unique intermarriages of the Broad Bay Germans.

Helen A. Sullivan, of Northampton, MA. is the daughter of Clifton Levensaler and Grace Abbie? Mank. Clifton is the son of Pearl Levensaler and Leola Jones. Pearl was a salesman for the Watkins company and left Rockland one day with his horse and buggy and was never heard from again. Nor his horse and buggy. Does anyone out there know what happened to Pearl? Pearl was the son of the Civil War veteran pictured here, Thomas Levensaler who married Mary E. Cunningham.

Clifton Levensaler's wife, Grace Abbie Mank, was the daughter of Lexton Brainard Mink and Alma Edith Cunningham. (See picture inside). Lexton Brainard was the son of Thomas Harrison Mink 3rd and Antoinette Pitcher.



Are you related to any of these families? Please let us know. Do you have pictures, stories, anecdotes, etc., that you can share with us? Please let us hear from you. Interesting, yes!

The Official Publication of the Old Broad Bay Family History Association

# Subscription Notice

Please look at your mailing label. If you have a -95 or a -96 after your name, your subscription is **now past due**. If you have a -97 after your name, your subscription is paid up until Jan 1997. (Unless I made a mistake! If so, please let me know. I'm amenable.

## Subscriptions to *Bund und Blatt*

Subscription . . . . . \$15 per year

OBBFHA membership . . \$5 per year

**Make Checks payable to W. W. Whitaker, 6095 Glenoaks, Murray, Ut 84107**

## Contributions in General

There were many of you who paid their subscriptions at the Reunion and many others who have sent their subscriptions to me. I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you. If you haven't heard from me, please accept my thanks at this time. Each is greatly appreciated. Your enthusiasm has buoyed me up and if you wish me to continue, I'd like to continue publishing *Bund und Blatt* for another year. New material is coming in frequently and I have boxes of material to print about these Broad Bay Germans and their families. Thank you for all who have paid their subscriptions and those who additionally sent extra contributions. Because of you, I have been able to meet expenses this year.

I would again appeal to those who have an interest in these Broad Bay German ancestors. Send a contribution of what you can afford, that is a good way to express your interest and willingness to help in this project. If you can't afford the cash, send some research, stories, anecdotes, pictures, anything that will shed a little more light on the personal lives of our German ancestors.

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## 1996 OBBFHA REUNION

We evidently had a president last year who resigned but didn't bother to let anyone know. Therefore, there was nothing done about the 1996 Reunion until it was too late to properly plan for one. However, there were some dedicated members who were determined to not let the year pass without its annual reunion and about 30 members met the first Sunday in August and elected the following: President: Mark Benner (207) 833-5390; V.P.: Joyce Ball Brown (207) 563-8693; Rec. Sec & Treas: Rene Seiders (207) 563-3210, Registrar: Douglass Prescott; Editor: W. W. Whitaker. Planning Committee (Board of Trustees): All the above plus Randy Gross, Esther Wallace, and Arlene Stetson.

Our new president, Mark Benner, reports:

We had our 10 a.m. Sunday morning meeting on the lawn of the German Church. It was a nice day and a slight breeze kept the bugs away. At the actual meeting, there were about two dozen present. Many things were discussed.

There was some confusion about whether or not there was to be a Broad Bay Family Meeting left some in doubt and they did not attend.

We've scheduled another meeting for the officers to further discuss plans for next summer's German History weekend. That meeting was held 21 Aug 1996 at Moody's Diner in Waldoboro, at 6 p.m. We decided to hold meetings regularly.

The Annual German Church Service was a nice one hour service this year with some hymns in German. The sermon was in German and translated into English. There was even a family from Stutgardt in attendance that I had spoken to before the service. Attendance was quite low this year, maybe 100 people. Next year's annual German Church Service will be 3 Aug 1997.

**Next year's Family History/Genealogical swap day will be Saturday, 2 Aug 1997.** The Grange Hall will only be available for one day as there is a church session in that building the next day. To make up for what **didn't** happen this year, we'll all work together as a team to make next year a bigger and better get together! (I. Will, am planning on attending this one, so let's see all of you there.)

Our Waldoboro library is bursting at the seams and needs a larger building. They're looking at a move in the near future.

The Waldoboro Historical Society Museum is also bulging with more Historical things, displays, and antiques and needs to expand, (Greatly I think.)

**WE** need a place, also, for meetings and perhaps the functions that occur during the Family History Swap Weekend, and perhaps a storage vault. Too bad we couldn't all team up for one large facility to handle all these needs. Wouldn't that be Great? (Are there knowledgeable people out there about Federal grants, etc?)

Not too far up the road from Waldoboro is the town of Washington. A few years ago, Washington received a Federal Grant that paid perhaps 90% of the cost of a giant modern library building. HMMMM!

The Waldoboro Historical Society's Membership has been falling in late years. Yearly memberships start at \$4 or \$5 for individuals and \$8 or \$10 for families. (I've (Mark) recently become a member.) They've had interesting historical presentations in the past and are well-worth hearing. The subscriptions or donations will be used

for continued maintenance.

Sunday was a nice day. We all had a good time and discussed many things, and we looked forward to our next meeting on the 21st, and we made further progress in that meeting.

Get in touch with Mark. He is an young man with a lot of "get-up-and-go", and wants to see the organization succeed. He is currently working on the Cemeteries project for Waldoboro.

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## Volunteers Needed

Mark is asking for volunteers to display their ancestors at next year's Reunion, 2 Aug 1997.

We are planning cemetery tours again next year, as well as tours to historical sites through-out Waldoboro. We need people to lead out on these tours. Let Mark know of your willingness to help out. Also, any suggestions of places to visit (besides Moody's Diner) in Town? Any suggestions for speakers or part of the program? Refreshments?, etc? Let Mark know.

I would like to see a river tour that we could take, and go down the river and back up to get an idea of what it may have looked like to our first ancestors. Who has a good-sized boat? or could we charter one? Who knows how to smoke alewives? Any takers? How about some more of Eugley's sauerkraut? Why couldn't they have made ice cream?

## WANTED:

Will Whitaker would like any or all back issues of *The Waldoboro Monthly News*, especially for the year 1873. Did you know that newspaper was published in Waldoboro? Do you know where back issues may be? Please let Will know. There are several articles re: Germans there.

## In Memoriam

It is with sorrow we note the passing of Members or of Members' Loved Ones.

There was a tragedy enacted in Gardiner Pond in Wiscasset, this summer when our staunch member Roger E. Shuman lost his grandson and his grandson's friend to an accidental drowning. Archie W. "Bunky" Brewer, Jr., 18 of Fowles Hill Road, died Wednesday, 10 Jul 1996. He was the son of Archie W. and Connie Shuman Brewer, Sr. and attended local schools. He enjoyed working on cars, hunting and fishing, and drawing. His friend, Isaac M. Laramée died at the same time. Two young men, cut off in their prime, will be sorely missed by friends and family.

## Kenneth R. Orff

Kenneth R. Orff, 73, worked 25 years for Eastern Airlines, of River Road, Epsom, N.H., formerly of Waldoboro, Maine, died Saturday, July 1996, after a lengthy illness. He was born in Waldoboro, a son of Ruel and Edith White Orff. He lived in Epsom, N.H. for the last 10 years and previously resided in Londonderry, N.H. He attended Waldoboro High School, served in the Navy Air Corp during World War II. Mr. Orff was a member of the American Legion. He leaves his wife, children, mother, brothers and sisters, six grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons.

## The Solving of a Mystery

From time to time, I am asked why I'm interested in Family History. There are several answers to that question as it is difficult to come up with one reason why. However, I like to solve a mystery, so I guess that is one reason I enjoy Family History research so much. It is like a mystery that needs to be solved, a giant puzzle that enjoins one to solve the smaller pieces before the larger one can be solved. The following is an excellent example of this: From Sibley's "History of Union", p. 437, is this intriguing paragraph:

The *Lime Rock Gazette*, published at East Thomaston, 8 Nov 1849, says, "Our Correspondent at Union furnishes us with the following remarkable and almost unparalleled piece of family history. ' On 7 Sep 1849, a child was born in Searsmont, who has five great-great-grandparents still surviving, viz: Mr. and Mrs. Phineas Butler, of Thomaston; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Robinson, of Liberty; and Mrs. Elizabeth Ulmer, of Thomaston. The ages of these great-great grandparents are 92, 85, 88, 88, 85, respectively. The little one is also blessed with three great-grandparents and four grandparents, together with a host of other relatives.' "

Of course, my attention was immediately drawn to this as I knew that Thomas Robinson was a brother of my Simeon Robinson, both sons of Major Haunce Robinson and Priscilla Hyler, and of course, Mrs. Elizabeth Ulmer, a German name piqued my interest. Who were they? Could I discover who the child was, based on those scant clues? Let's see if we can solve it!

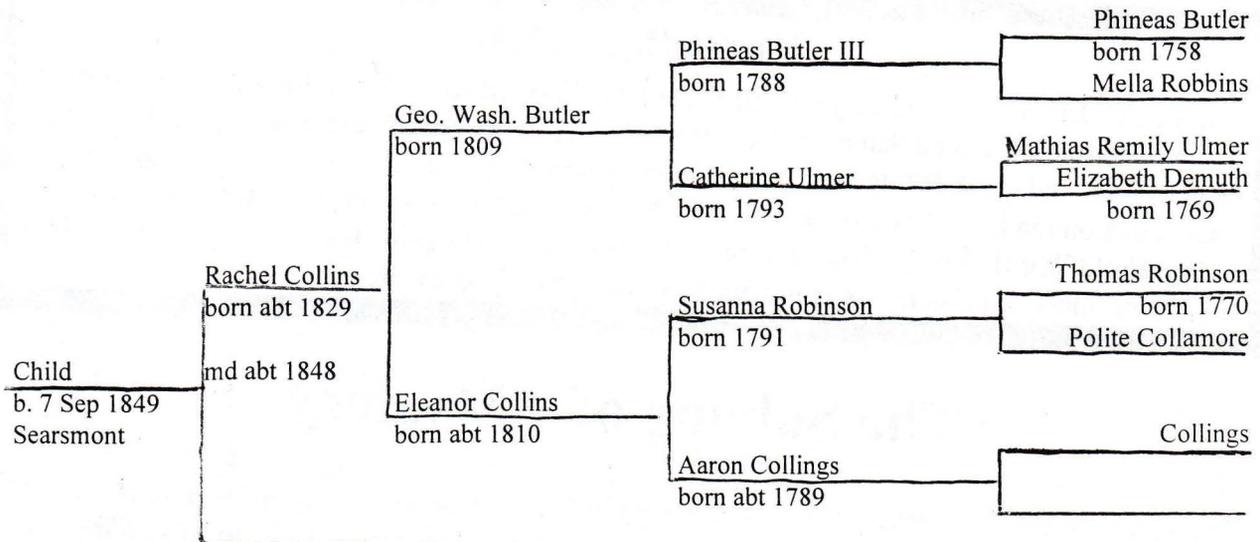
I already had several Butlers in my database because of their intermarriages within the German community. So it was fairly easy to find Phineas Butler and Mella Robbins and their son Phineas Butler III who married Catherine Ulmer, daughter of Mathias Remily Ulmer and Elizabeth Demuth. so far so good. Thomas Robinson has been an elusive relative but I found him in Hope and later in Liberty. His family was beginning to come together, as I found several children and their marriages, one being of their daughter Susannah Robinson to Aaron Collings. Using Sibley's *History of Union* I was able to find the next generation of the families involved in our quest. I haven't found the final pieces yet, but the following looks very good. It is either Rachel or her sister Catherine who are the parents of the child born in Searsmont on 7 Sep 1849!

Phineas Butler  
born 1758  
Mella Robbins

Mathias Remily Ulmer  
Elizabeth Demuth  
born 1769

Thomas Robinson  
born 1770  
Polite Collamore

Collings



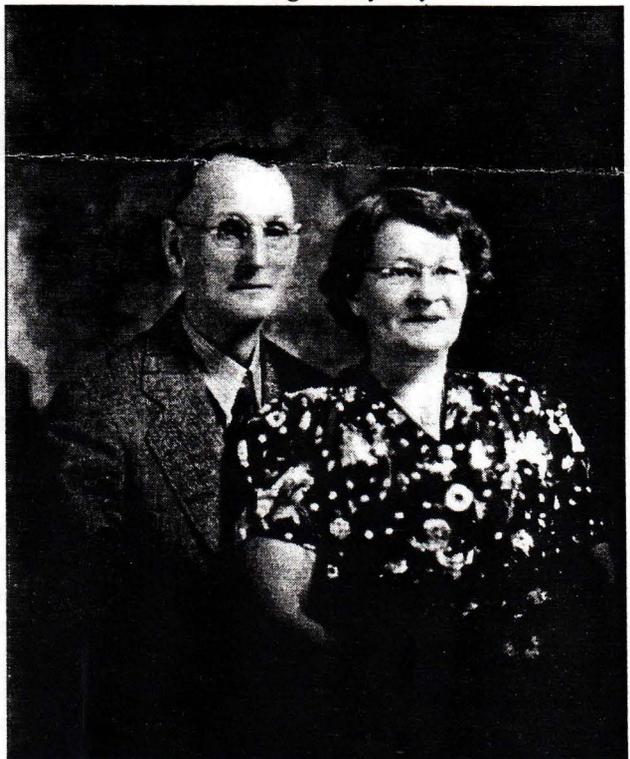
So why do I enjoy Genealogical Research? Because of the thrill of adventure, the lure of a good mystery, the feeling one gets when a thorny problem is solved, the excitement of finding new clues and piecing them together. We never lack something to do. There are always problems to be solved. And the wonderful thing is that when we solve one problem, we usually have created several more problems to be solved! Yes, I love a good mystery.

## A Typical Mink Family Man?

Pictured here are Lexton Brainard Mink and his wife Alma Edith Cunningham. He is the son of Thomas Harrison Mink and Antoinette Pitcher, of North Waldoboro. They are the maternal grandparents of Helen A. Sullivan.

Alma Edith Cunningham is the daughter of Everett Cunningham and Abbie Florence. Abba Levensaler, a sister of the Civil War Veteran, and daughter of John Levensaler and Dorothy Mink.

I wonder if Lexton Brainard Mink has a look that is typical of the Mink family. Let me know if you have some pictures we can feature. Thanks, Helen, very interesting.



**Update on our Broad Bay Roots Book:** It is moving along. We have decided to publish only one volume this year and perhaps a second volume next year. We are definitely excited about this book. 6 years in the making! Over 180 German immigrants and we have identified about 160 of them in Germany. We wish we had them all!

[NOTE: This article was prepared for the *German Genealogical Digest* and may be revised further and published in their November 1996 issue]

## **They can be found!!! 18th Century Palatine Research**

by Gary T. Horlacher<sup>1</sup>, MA, AG

My heart was pounding and my hands shaking as I sat in the library of a local minister's private home and copied the names of all the Killmers listed in old church book of Neuengrönau from 1650-1700. The excitement was overwhelming. This seemed to be family of Johannes Jurrian Kühlmann [Dutch] or Johann Georg Kilmer [German] who came to New York in 1709/1710. Could I have finally found his connection to Germany?

The names of the children of Johann Georg Killmer matched those found in early New York records. The family was listed in the records up to 1709 and then was not listed in any records of the town after that year. A week later, in the quiet of my home, the clincher came when a New York record showed the ages of the children and verifying that there was a set of twins who had been identified in the German birth records. This was the right family and town of origin for the Kilmer family!

Genealogy research can be quite exciting and rewarding. Few things can compare to the excitement and thrill of locating the origin of a family in Europe prior to their emigration to America. Although there were more Germans who came to America in the 19th century than in the 18th century, because of the difficulty involved, it is especially exciting to research the origins of the earlier emigrants who broke virgin grounds in this country.

Although one might find it difficult to identify the 18th century German immigrant's name, let alone where he was from in Germany, more resources are becoming available. It is becoming more common to be able to locate the origins of these families in Germany. Once the connection to Germany is made, it is generally possible to extend the ancestry of the family back a couple additional generations in German records.

This article will identify various steps that can be taken in locating 18th century Germans immigrants in their German towns of origin. Although locating each immigrant is an individual problem and various strategies will work for one project and not for the next, at least some of these strategies can apply to nearly every case. Many of the strategies discussed here can also be applied to researching Germans that came in the 19th century.

The researching the German origins of Palatine families can be done by first checking previous research, searching US Research, study of the passenger list, clues from the surname, leads from the IGI, published German sources, and other sources. These steps can be tried and re-tried

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<sup>1</sup> Professional Genealogist specializing in German, Scandinavian, and Dutch research. He has traced numerous Palatine immigrants, some for clients and his own family. He is currently working with Will W. Whitaker to publish a genealogy of about 150 German Palatine families that settled in Broad Bay (Waldoboro), Maine in the mid-18th century.

until the family is finally located in German sources.

Although there may be only about 80% success in locating German emigrants from the 18th century, that does give a good hope. No case is beyond hope! Often when these options do not at first pan out, keep trying and eventually the break-through will come.

## **BACKGROUND OF EMIGRATION**

The era of emigration to America, referred to in general as the Palatine emigration, began with the German exodus to New York in 1709/1710. From that time, the emigration to all of the colonies, but primarily to Pennsylvania, slowly grew until it hit a pinnacle of emigration around 1750-1753. In the last half of the 18th century, as interest in the colonies waned and enough immigrants had come that proprietors of the various colonies stopped pushing so hard, the emigration began to decline.

This time period was one of change in Germany. Many areas had been devastated during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) and the War of Louis XIV in 1688-1697. These areas mostly bordered France, along the Rhine River on the western borders of Germany (Rhineland, Pfalz, Baden, Hessen, etc.). As many of these towns had become entirely or mostly depopulated, the local rulers of these territories recruited new settlers from France (Huguenots), Switzerland, and other parts of Germany.

As the new generations in these villages began to increase and flourish, taxes and poverty increased. There began to be a surplus of common laborers and artisans. There was little hope of improving their lot in life. The grandchildren of those who repopulated this area were ready to move on again. The adventure and opportunities in America were attractive to young families who found very few opportunities or adventure in their situation as it stood.

As a large group of the emigrants to America during this colonial era were recruited from the Protestant areas that were called the Palatinate region, this has become referred to as the Palatine emigration. The Palatinate (Pfalz in German) region belonged mostly to Bavaria. It was west of the Rhine River, bordering France on the west and south. Although many Germans came from this region in the 18th century they probably made up less than a third of the overall Germans from this era. Emigration from areas of Baden-Württemberg, Hessen, and Switzerland supplied just as many emigrants in the 18th century as the Palatinate.

## **SURVEY OF PREVIOUS RESEARCH**

As with all genealogical research, it is important to learn what research has been done on a given family. Often emigrants who came to America in the 18th century have thousands of descendants and previous researchers may have worked on these lines before. Before getting too far into this research, it is best to try to identify others who have worked or are working on the family line and possibly coordinate this research.

A search should be made to see if any previous books or articles have been published on the family. Catalogs from major genealogical libraries and collections may give clues. Some of these include the Family History Library in Utah, the Allen County Genealogical Library in Indiana, the New England Genealogical and Biographical Library in Boston, the Library of Congress, and the DAR Library in Washington, DC.

There are also several ways to locate others researching the same immigrant ancestor. Queries can be published in various local periodicals or in general genealogical periodicals such as *the Genealogical Helper*. Queries can also be posted on computer bulletin boards or through the Internet. Often joining county historical societies will help to identify others researching the same names. Word of mouth from other researchers is helpful in locating others researching the same names.

### **U. S. RESEARCH**

Once you have been able to compile what others have put together on the family and what has been published, it is now time to start your own research. Much could be written about researching German families in US sources. This article, however, deals primarily with trying to locate the origin of an ancestor in Germany. It is most important for this research to concentrate on records of the immigrant family for the first 20-40 years after emigrating to this country.

The most helpful sources to consider are the census, tax lists, wills, church records, and cemetery records. If the earliest locations of the family in this country are unknown and the family was from Pennsylvania, published tax lists, wills, and German church records exist for all of the predominantly German counties of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Montgomery, Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, York, and Adams). Searching these general sources will give clues and leads for identifying the earliest references to the family in America.

In researching these sources, special note should be made of who the sponsors at the family christenings were; who the witnesses to wills, marriage records, and land records were; who the neighbors in the census and tax lists were. These will all be leads that can be used later in trying to identify relationships and further clues for locating these families in Germany. All information on the immigrant and this first generation will be the primary pool of data used when looking for the person in Germany.

Often members of the same families in German settled in different colonies in America. By locating the various immigrant families in different colonies, it may give clues for identifying your family. The Heyler family that came to Boston in 1742 had close relatives that settled in Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina.

Perhaps the most valuable of the early colonial sources is the passenger list. Although Philadelphia and Nova Scotia kept good records of early passengers, some of these lists from New England and South Carolina are missing or incomplete.

In lieu of passenger lists, petitions, lists of settlers, probate records, tax lists, and other documents from the first period subsequent to the family's arrival become more important. What are the nearest ten names on each side of your ancestor in the 1790 census or on the petition for protection he signed in 1778? Who were the christening witnesses on his children's christening and for whom was he a witness? Who were the witnesses when he sold land or wrote his will?

One case a pattern began to show was in studying sources for Andreas (Andrew) Waltz or Woltz. He came to Broad Bay (now Waldoboro), Maine in 1752 with his wife according to an incomplete passenger list. The immigrants who came in November were destitute, so the government of Massachusetts sent supplies to Broad Bay in the spring of 1752. Andreas Waltz's name appears on two lists receiving some of these supplies. In 1757, 1767, and 1788 his name appears on additional petitions and lists.

On each of these six lists, his name appear next to that of Johannes (John) Genthner. Andreas Waltz and Johannes Genthner were about the same age. None of their children married each other. There was apparently a relationship between these two that went back to Germany. Perhaps Johannes Genthner was married to Andreas Waltz's sister. Whatever the connection, there are now two families that can be researched to try to find the origin of Andreas Waltz. Perhaps the location of Johannes Genthner could be found, which would indirectly lead to locating Andreas Waltz in Germany.

This is a very detailed type of detective work and each document should be carefully analyzed for clues and patterns. The more of these leads and documentation that can be found, the more likely that it will lead you to the final break through, establishing the place of origin for your ancestor.

### **THE PASSENGER LIST**

For those who come from Pennsylvania or other areas where passenger lists exist, this is perhaps the most important source of leads in locating Palatines in Germany. Emigrants seldom traveled alone. They emigrated in groups of relatives and friends from the same villages. They were recruited from a group of neighboring villages and traveled together from these regions to Rotterdam and from there to America, only to split up and go their separate ways after arriving in the new country.

A genealogist in West Virginia was researching the families of Heinrich Fleischer, Peter Fleischer, and Balthazar Lantz. He noted that among the other families on the ship *Pheonix* in 1752 was another emigrant from the town of Ober-Sehmen Parish in Germany. He asked me to check the years prior to 1730 for this town. To my astonishment, both the Lantz and Fleischer families were from this same town.

Likewise, an attempt was made to locate the origins of the early Grünewald family that founded several of the earliest Grünewald families of Pennsylvania. The founder of this family was an Abraham Grünewald who emigrated to Pennsylvania on the *Lydia* in 1740. Other sources showed 2-3 of the other emigrants on this ship came from the town of Herren-Sulzbach. After searching all

other sources, the records of this town was searched and the family was documented from that town.

Two different times, the emigrant was found by searching the records of the towns where others were from that came on the same ship to America. This is more than a wild coincidence, but rather a pattern of emigration.

## THE NAME

Many German names are quite unusual, which can give clues about the origins in Germany. A good source to search if you speak German is Josef Karlmann Brechenmacher's *Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Familiennamen* [Etymological Dictionary of German Surnames], 1957 [FHL 943 D46bj]. Another good German surname dictionary that is in English is George Fenwick Jones' *German-American Names*, 1995 [FHL 973 D4j]. These can give you an idea of the origin of surname.

There are two types of surnames that can be very helpful in locating a family name: those that are very unusual and those that come from place names.

Germany is a country with a surprising number of unique surnames. When an immigrant had an unusual surname, often the family can be located by finding where people with that name were located in general German sources such as the IGI, telephone CD-ROM listing, general biographical dictionaries, and other sources. Among such surnames I have searched include the following: Virohr, Unbehend, Rudauer, Aulwurm, Petillon, and Mühlhofer. Locating others in German sources with these same surnames was a strategy used in researching each of these families.

Among unusual surnames are often names that come from place names. Many German surnames came from the names of local villages that the original ancestors were from. Often the people who took these names remained in the same local communities for centuries. My own surname, Horlacher, comes from the village of Horlachen in southern Württemberg. Almost all Horlacher's today can trace their ancestry to a region of Württemberg, north of Schwäbisch Hall, near this village.

Another of my families was the Castator family of Kentucky. This family was known as Kerstetter in early Pennsylvania records. The name Kerstätter, comes from the name of a farm in Northern Württemberg by the name Kerstätterhof. The Kerstätter or Kerstetter family, came to Pennsylvania from a village not far from this farm. Using a gazetteer to locate the farm could have aided in locating the area where the family was from.

Another family that came to Broad Bay (Waldoboro), Maine in 1751 was the Birkenbeul family. They were listed in the records of Hamm Parish. One of the Birkenbeul families in this parish was living in the village of Birkenbeul, a town that belonged to the Hamm Parish. This is not that uncommon in 18th century Germany.

Besides very unusual names and names that come from place names, occasionally some names might give clues as to the general region of German that they come from. Although "Akermann" is a word for "farmer", it was used in Northern Germany, while "Bauer" was more common in the south. This might be a good indication that Akermann might be a northern German name rather than a southern German name.

Of course people moved and there are always exceptions, so these leads can only be used as general leads and not taken as laws.

### **INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI)**

Along with unusual names, the International Genealogical Index (IGI) should be mentioned. This computerized index of names includes extraction of many parishes and submissions by various researchers of their own family research. Often, even if direct family that is desired is not mentioned in the IGI, there will be some member of the family who married in another town which is listed. If the name is unusual enough, this can often lead to the origin of the family. By locating the original record of the bride's marriage, it usually will tell what town she was from. The records of that town may prove to hold the origins of your family.

Another researcher, Diane Deputy of South Jordan, Utah, had an ancestor by the name Johannes Roeder who married Anna Catharina Killmer in 1772 in Neuengrönau. Their grandchild later emigrated to America in the mid-19th century. Although my ancestor was not listed in the IGI, this name was uncommon enough that this variation was noted. When passing near this town on a research trip to Germany, I stopped and asked to see the records. What an extra bonus that made for my trip when it turned out to be the right family!

### **GERMAN SOURCES**

Several books and articles have been published giving lists of Germans who emigrated from various parts of Germany during the 18th century. Many of these are regional books which were made by a study of regional sources. The **manumission records**, where emigrants were required to pay a tax before they could legally leave their hometowns, still exist for some parts of Germany. Werner Hacker has indexed many of these records and published them in separate volumes according to the various parts of Germany the records come from:

*Auswanderungen aus Baden und dem Breisgau* [Emigration from Baden and the Breisgau], 1980 [FHL 943.46 W29h]

*Auswanderungen aus Rheinpfalz und Saarland im 18. Jahrhundert* [Emigration from the Rhineland Palatinate and Saarland in the 18th Century], 1987 [FHL 943 W29h]

*Kurpfälzische Auswanderer vom Unteren Neckar* [Electoral Palatinate Emigrants from the lower Neckar], 1983 [FHL 943.43 W2hw]

Others have compiled collections of emigrants by searching church records in a fairly small region of Germany and noting all those who were listed as emigrating to America. Annette K. Burgert has compiled several publications of this sort:

*Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German Speaking Lands to North America*, 1983, Vol. 16 [Germans from Northern Kraichgau region of Baden-Württemberg], 1985, Vol. 19 [Germans from the western Palatinate region] [FHL 974.8 B4pgp, Vol. 16, 19]

*Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America* (1992), [FHL 974.8 B4pgp Vol. 26].

*Westerwald to America* by A.K. Burgert & Henry Z. Jones, 1989 [FHL 943.42 W2b].

Another author who has done an excellent study of Palatinate families that emigrated to New York in 1710 and later emigrants to the middle colonies 1717-1776 is Hank Jones:

*The Palatine Families of New York: a Study of the German Immigrants Who Arrived in Colonial New York in 1710* (1985) [FHL 974.7 D2j].

*More Palatine Families: Some immigrants to the Middle Colonies 1717-1776 and Their European Origins Plus New Discoveries on German Families Who Arrived in Colonial New York in 1710* (1991) [973 W2jo].

Following are a few additional regional sources for 18th century German emigrants:

*Emigrants from Württemberg, the Adolf Gerber Lists* by Donald H. Yoder [FHL 974.8 C4fg v.10]

*A List of German Immigrants to the American Colonies from Zweibrücken in the Palatinate, 1728-1749* by William J. Hinke [FHL 974.8 C4fg]

*Die Auswanderung in die Neuengland-Staaten aus Orten in Enzkreises im 18. Jahrhundert* [Emigration to the New England States from Places in the Enz District in the 18th Century] by Karl Ehmann, 1977 [FHL 943 W2e]

Various books have also been written about Swiss emigrants from various German speaking Canton's to America during the 18th century:

*Lists of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies* by Albert B. Faust & Gaius M. Brumbaugh, 1925, Vol. 1: Zürich Canton 1734-1744, Vol. 2: Bern Canton 1706-1795 and Basel Canton 1734-1794 [FHL 973 W2fa]

*Swiss Emigration Book* by Cornelia Schrader-Murgenthaler, 1993 [FHL 973 W2smc]

*A List of Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Canton of Schaffhausen (1734-1752)* by Ernst Steinemann [FHL 974.8 C4fg Vol. 16].

Many additional sources can be found in unusual places. A ship-load of emigrants to Boston in 1751 were shown a wonderful time for their first month after arrival in Boston in November 1751. They were then persuaded to sign a petition concerning the wonderful conditions in the New World, to be sent back to Germany to persuade others to join. Next to the names on this petition was listed the town where they were from. This petition was published in the German periodical *Hessische Familienkunde* [Hessian Family-Research], October 1961, Vol. 5, No.8, pp.435-438.

Another wonderful list was made from the manumission of settlers from villages in Hessen, located in the Wiesbaden Archives during the 18th century. These records can be found in a typed manuscript document by Adolf Gerber, "Die Nassau-Dillenburg Auswanderung nach Amerika im 18. Jahrhundert" [The Nassau-Dillenburg emigration to America in the 18th century], 1930 [FHL #475801].

Although there are dozens of articles and lists such as the two examples above, it is not hopeless for locating such elusive documents. Fortunately some collections of this type of documents have been compiled into larger compilations:

*Immigrants to the Middle Colonies* by Michael Tepper, 1978 [FHL 973 W3te]

*Cumulative Surname Soundex to German-American Genealogical Research Monographs 14-19 and 21-25* by Clifford N. Smith, 1990 [FHL 973 W2snb No. 26]

*Pennsylvania German Immigrants, 1709-1786* by Donald H. Yoder, 1980 [FHL 974.8 F2pg]

*The Palatine Pamphlet* by Charles M. Hall, 1975 [FHL 973 W22h or 973 A1 no.105]

If your particular ancestor is not mentioned in any of these sources, there may be relatives of your ancestor listed in at least one of these. If the name is fairly unusual, any mention of others with the same surname in any of these sources could be a good lead. Also searching these sources for others who traveled on the same ship could provide excellent leads, as indicated previously.

## **OTHER SOURCES**

Unlike this country, Germany was not one united country between the times of Charlemagne until the end of the 19th century. Because of this, there are no general census records, surname lists, tax lists, or other records that include the entire country. On the other hand there were some grand duchies and other areas that were almost like independent countries of their own. These areas often had census, tax, or other records that included their entire region.

For example, when a new ruler of the Margravite of Baden-Durlach took over control of the country,

all of his subjects were required to appear by town and swear allegiance to the new ruler. These lists provide the names of all males (usually 16 years and older) by village. The list for 1709 was published by Hermann Jacob in 1935 under the title *Einwohnerbuch der Markgrafschaft Baden-Durlach im Jahre 1709* [Book of inhabitants of the Margravite Baden-Durlach in the year 1709]. This book has a good index and is an excellent source to locate where various surnames were located in this region at that time. Another ruler was installed in this region in 1738, but the list of those swearing allegiance for this year has not been published [located in the Karlsruhe Archives].

Likewise a few census records were kept from the region belonging to the Duke of Württemberg during the 18th century. Although these census records are not available for research in Salt Lake City and have not been indexed, if you believe your family was from this area, Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser of Herrengasse 8-10, 89610 Oberdischingen, Germany, has indexed these records and keeps a private collection, which he will search for a fee.

Also if the family was from Bavaria, Reinhard Mayer of Jägerstr. 42, 83308 Trostberg, Germany, has a very excellent record of 19th century German emigrants, which he will search for a fee. His indexes may give clues and include entries from the 18th century, although they are primarily concerned with those leaving later.

If the surname is rather unusual, any mention of the name from any of the above sources would provide leads. Often there will be five or six leads from various sources. These can be located on a map to see if there are any recurrent patterns for the name in Germany. Perhaps all the leads are for families coming from a small geographical region. If so, all the church records in those towns could be researched from microfilms through the Family History Library or its branches.

There are also CD-ROM listings of all those listed in German telephone books. These books can also help to identify the distribution of a surname. If there are only a handful of people with the given surname, letters could be written to each person to ask where their families originally stem from.

## **REPEAT**

Techniques for locating origins of Palatine ancestors can be as numerous as your imagination can think of. All are legitimate and by trying several techniques, they will usually converge and lead to locating the family in Germany.

When the background information has been gathered and all the above sources have been exhausted and still the town of origin in Germany has not been located, it is time to repeat the cycle. One can go back to US sources and search even more closely who the neighbors were in the first town where the family settled. Who were those most often mentioned together with your ancestor? Were there given names that ran through the family? From where did others come who immigrated at the same time to America?

Once more detailed information has been located in US sources, then the same European sources can be again searched. This time they might lead to another region of Germany that had not been previously searched.

Occasionally a family will lead to a dead end in Germany. One client's Dietrich family was listed in Werner Hacker's book of emigrants from Riesweiler. The records of this town (Argenthal Parish) had not been microfilmed. After visiting the town in Germany, it was found that the church had burned down in 1796 and all the records prior to that time were destroyed. As the emigrant had emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1748/1749, there was no way to trace the family back earlier even though the town of origin was located. A town history was found which did list the name of inhabitants of the town in 1567, 1600, 1656, 1698, 1705, 1741/1742, 1753, and 1779. Also a book on the inhabitants of the district of Simmern 1600-1720 by M. Frauenberger gave leads about relatives that were living in surrounding towns.

Another family that was located in Germany (Grünwald), emigrated from the town of Herren-Sulzbach in 1740. Unfortunately the minister in Herren-Sulzbach was very slothful in his keeping of the records and neglected to keep accurate records of birth, marriages, and deaths in his parish between 1715-1739, the exact years when the children who are listed in Pennsylvania sources would have been listed.

In some instances the lack of records because of a fire or the omission of a minister, without additional sources to point to the right town, might be almost insurmountable odds to locate the town of origin.

It is not possible to say that by following these strategies, every Palatine family from this era could be located. There might be some that are almost impossible to find. Perhaps the individual left on his own from a town where the records were later burned, or was named Johannes Schmidt. I have been fortunate enough to even locate several common named emigrants from the 18th century such as Schmidt (Smith), Schneider (tailor), and Müller (Miller) by locating those they settled by and where they were from.

Long persistence in this research will often eventually win over and even the hardest cases can be broken. Don't give up, just set it aside for a while and turn to another line. Then try again a couple years later. These Palatine families can be found!

## **A Moravian Memorial**

A group of most intriguing documents from North Carolina are the "Memorials" that were written at the time of a member's "Passing Out of Time" or death. Sometimes written by the individuals themselves, or partly written by them and by others after their deaths, but frequently written by family members or friends after their passing, these memorials present an unique bit of Americana

and individual histories of members of the Moravian Church. Sometimes there is a great deal of family, genealogical data, and sometimes hardly any, but almost all memorials give details of the members' conversion stories, telling of their being lost in darkness, wandering in fear and trembling for their souls and their acceptance of the Christ and his atonement and how their burdens were lightened by His saving grace. We obtained over 25 of these memorials from The Moravian Archives in Winston-Salem and have obtained their gracious approval to use them in our forthcoming book. We present one of them here for your perusal and knowledge.

## **Sister Elizabeth Schneider Wohlfahrt's Memorial**

The course of the life of the widowed Sr. Elisabeth Wohlfahrt, born Schneider, who went home on 26 August 1812 in Salem. [I haven't found her parents yet nor am I sure of the meaning of the word Eskimos, below. Were these Indians in America or were they actually sent to Alaska to work with the Eskimos? Her husband was the Rev Johann Jacob, Jr., son of Johann Jacob Wohlfahrt, who lost his life in the French and Indian Wars, from Broad Bay, and Sophia Barbara Vogt, who became the 2nd wife of Adam Schumacher and with him moved to North Carolina. Elizabeth Schneider's husband was well-known for his work among the Indians, and he died in the Cherokee Indian Nation, in Georgia in 1807.]

She was born on 30 September 1759 in Friedensthal, not far from Nazareth, Pennsylvania. When her dear parents received a call to the Saviour's service among the Eskimos, they placed her in the children's boarding school there for instruction. They spent many years in that service, even until their deaths. The teachers who knew the child have testified that she was good and also full of promise. In later years she occasionally attested to her gratitude to the Saviour for letting her share in the benefits of receiving her education in the Moravian Church. And one could indeed see that God's Spirit even then had proven to be at work in her heart.

The exact dates on which she entered the Older Girls Choir and subsequently the Single Sisters Choir have not been precisely established. But on 28 June 1772 she was received into the Bethlehem Congregation. And it was there that on 31 March 1773 she partook of Holy Communion for the first time. She has occasionally talked about her experiences then and in particular the circumstances that prevailed when Bethlehem had to endure so many hardships during the Revolutionary War. That she had not suffered a disastrous downfall then, as many another had, she attributed solely to the Saviour's faithfulness and compassion, for, as she confessed, she had been sustained by the Moravian Church.

In the autumn of 1783 she very unexpectedly received a call to Wachovia and accepted it. Soon after her arrival in Salem, in company with several other Brothers and Sisters, she became employed in the girls school in Bethabara, where she remained for a couple of years. Then she moved back into her Choir House.

On 15 August 1788 she entered upon holy matrimony with the Single Br. Joh. Jac. Wohlfahrt, who had received a call to serve as minister to the Congregation in Hope. They were introduced to that Congregation on the 26th of that month. Her marriage was blessed with three sons. And, as she often declared, their flourishing in the Moravian Church lay close to her heart.

After serving four years [in Hope], her blessed husband asked to be released from his post, and they moved back to Salem near the close of 1792. They remained here until 1801, when they received a call to the congregation in Friedland and accepted it with joy. Their sojourn there, however, did not last long, for in the very next year her blessed husband received a call to Springplace, where they were needed to serve as missionaries. They could not refuse this call. Arriving there in December, they had to bear many burdens during their three years of service. In October 1805 they were relieved by Br. and Sr. Gambold, whereupon they returned to Salem, arriving on 18 November. They first went back to their post in Friedland. Subsequently, however, they were called to Hope to serve that Congregation. Our dear Br. Verbeck introduced them there on 6 January 1807. But their service was once again of short duration, for on 4 August

of that same year she suffered profound grief when her dear husband blessedly died after a brief illness. She then moved back to Salem.

It was very hard for her at first to find her way upon the Saviour's path and to recover, in some degree, from her loss. Indeed, she endured many a dark hour, especially during the first few years of her widowhood. Nevertheless, those who knew her more closely can give witness that she wholeheartedly relied upon the Saviour and, as a sinner, rejoiced in his mercy and compassion. And all testify that she was most eager to serve. Indeed, she went so far as to neglect her own needs in order to be of service to others. She will be missed especially in connection with the care of the sick. She had a lovely gift for this and was always found willing to use it. Even the last few weeks of her life, when she herself was feeling ill, she spent in carrying on this beautiful work--the work that is so well-pleasing to the Saviour. And so she taxed herself beyond her strength.

Several days ago her fatigue so increased that she was obliged to take to her bed, which she would never be able to leave thereafter. Of course, no one believed that this illness would be the occasion for her end, for even she herself did not in the least way give expression to such a thought. But toward evening on 26 August, after we had continued throughout the day to hope for her recovery, the symptoms became so severe that she quickly lost all power to help herself to any extent or to make herself understood, and we clearly saw that her end was drawing nigh. There was just barely time to impart to her the final blessing. And thus she died that evening in the 10th hour during the singing of the hymn stanza *Christi Blut und Gerechtigkeit*, etc.

Her age was 53 years, less 35 days. Now she is at peace. Translated by Frances Cumnock July 1995. [Used by special permission of The Moravian Archives, 4 East Bank Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101.

**Old Broad Way  
Bund und Blatt**

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